***Amendments to the Claims:***

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

***Listing of Claims:***

1. (Currently amended) A computer network system, comprising:

a circuit board forming a backplane;

a field replaceable unit (FRU) slot located on said backplane;

a bus;

a central resource coupled with said FRU slot via said bus; and

a non-volatile memory coupled to said central resource;

wherein said central resource is configured to generate ~~generates~~ a power mask for said FRU slot;

wherein said power mask is configured to be stored in said non-volatile memory; and

wherein said power mask includes a power state of said FRU slot.

2. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said FRU slot comprises a Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect (CPCI) slot.

3. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said power mask is configured to be available after a power cycle and is configured to ~~can~~ be subsequently accessed from said non-volatile memory by said central resource via said bus.

4. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 3, wherein said central resource is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said power mask for information regarding said power state on said power mask using an Intelligent Platform Management Interface (IPMI) protocol.

5. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central resource is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said power mask from said non-volatile memory to determine a power status and history of said slot.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Original) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said power mask comprises a power status of said FRU slot and a functional status of an FRU held by said FRU slot.

8. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central resource is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said power mask from said non-volatile memory to update said power state.

9. (Original) The computer network system of claim 8, wherein said updated power state depends on a condition of an FRU held by said FRU slot.

10. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central resource is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said power mask from said non-volatile memory to determine whether an FRU held by said FRU slot is faulty.

11. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central resource is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said power mask from said non-volatile memory to determine whether an FRU held by said FRU slot requires too much power.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central

resource is configured to generate ~~generates~~ said power mask based on whether an FRU held by said FRU slot requires too much power.

14. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central resource is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said power mask from said non-volatile memory to keep an FRU held by said FRU slot in a powered off state.

15. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, further comprising a hotswap controller configured to run ~~running~~ on said central resource and wherein said hotswap controller is configured to make ~~makes~~ a determination as to whether to power on an FRU held by said FRU slot.

16. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 15, wherein said hotswap controller is configured to persistently power ~~powers~~ down said FRU when said FRU requires an excess amount of power.

17. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 15, wherein said hotswap controller is configured to persistently power ~~powers~~ down said FRU when a hardware signal from said FRU indicates said FRU as being faulty.

18. (Currently amended) The computer network system of claim 1, further comprising a second FRU slot located on said backplane and wherein said central resource is configured to generate ~~generates~~ a second power mask for said second FRU slot.

19. (Original) The computer network system of claim 18,

wherein said power mask is uniquely generated by said central resource for said FRU slot and said second power mask is uniquely generated by said central resource for said second FRU slot and

wherein both said power mask and said second power mask are persistently stored in said non-volatile memory.

20. (Currently amended) A method for generating and utilizing a persistent power mask to determine a power state of a computer network device, comprising:

determining by a central resource whether a field replaceable unit (FRU) coupled to a computer network system should be powered off during a first power cycle of said computer network system;

generating a power mask, by said central resource for said FRU, with an indicator of a power state which indicates whether said FRU should be powered on or powered off ~~to reflect a power state determined by said central resource for said FRU~~;

storing said power mask in a non-volatile memory;

accessing said power mask by said central resource from said non-volatile memory during a second power cycle of said computer network system; and

utilizing said power mask by said central resource to determine whether said FRU should be persistently powered off during said second power cycle.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said determining by said central resource as to whether said FRU should be powered off comprises:

determining by said central resource whether said FRU requires more power than said computer network system can provide.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said determining by said central resource as to whether said FRU requires more power than said computer network system can provide comprises:

comparing a power requirement of said FRU with a power capacity of said computer network system,

wherein said power requirement of said FRU is stored in a second non-volatile memory

located within said FRU and wherein said second non-volatile memory is powered on by a standby power source of said computer network system.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said determining by said central resource as to whether said FRU should be powered off comprises:

determining by said central resource whether said FRU is faulty.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

determining by said central resource whether said FRU coupled to said computer network system should be powered on during said second power cycle of said computer network system; and

updating said power mask by said central resource for said FRU to reflect an updated power status determined by said central resource for said FRU during said second power cycle.

26. (New) The computer network system of claim 20, wherein the indicator indicates whether said FRU was powered on or powered off prior to a last system power down.

27. (New) The computer network system of claim 1,

wherein said FRU slot is a first FRU slot;

wherein the system further comprises a second FRU slot;

wherein the central resource is further operable to store a separate power mask for each of the first and second FRU slots; and

wherein each separate power mask includes an indicator specific to said power mask's FRU slot which indicates whether said respective FRU should be powered on or powered off.

28. (New) The computer network system of claim 1, wherein said central resource is further operable to generate an indicator in the power mask which indicates whether an FRU held by said FRU slot is faulty.